

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 17-18, 20-21, 34, 36, 38, 40-41, 54, 56, 58, and 60-61, and cancel Claims 19, 39, 59, and 74, all as shown below. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing application.

1. (Currently Amended) An application program interface (API) embodied on one or more computer readable media, comprising:
 - a first group of services ~~related to~~ for integrating content repositories into virtual content repositories (VCRs) such that they appear and behave as a single content repository;
 - a second group of services ~~related to~~ for manipulating information in VCRs;
 - a third group of services ~~related to~~ for searching VCRs; and
 - a forth group of services ~~related to~~ for configuring VCRs; andwherein the application program interface is compatible with a content repository service provider interface (SPI).
2. (Original) The application program interface of claim 1 wherein:
 - the SPI provides a subset of the services available in the API.
3. (Currently Amended) The application program interface of claim 1 wherein the first group of services comprises:
 - first functions ~~to enable~~ for authorizing access to content repositories; and
 - second functions ~~to enable~~ for incorporating content repositories into a hierarchical namespace; and
 - third functions ~~to enable~~ for extending a VCR content model to represent information in content repositories.
4. (Original) The application program interface of claim 3 wherein:
 - authorizing access to content repositories includes providing authentication information to repositories and receiving authentication results from content repositories.
5. (Original) The application program interface of claim 3 wherein:

authorizing access to content repositories utilizes Java Authentication and Authorization Service.

6. (Original) The application program interface of claim 3 wherein:
incorporating content repositories into a hierarchical namespace includes representing content repositories as nodes under a single VCR root node.

7. (Original) The application program interface of claim 3 wherein:
extending a VCR content model to represent information in content repositories includes sharing a common representation of content between the API and the SPI.

8-16. (Withdrawn)

17. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
means for providing a first group of services ~~related to~~ for integrating content repositories into a virtual content repository (VCR) such that they appear and behave as a single content repository;
means for providing a second group of services ~~related to~~ for manipulating information in the VCR;
means for providing a third group of services ~~related to~~ for searching the VCR; and
means for providing a forth group of services ~~related to~~ for configuring the VCR.

18. (Currently Amended) A software architecture for a distributed computing system, comprising:
a first application configured to handle requests provided to it by a second application over a network; and
an application program interface (API) to provide functions used by the first application to access a virtual content repository (VCR), wherein the API includes: ~~and~~
a first group of services for integrating content repositories into virtual content repositories (VCRs),
a second group of services for manipulating information VCRs,
a third group of services for searching VCRs, and
a forth group of services for configuring VCRs,

wherein the API is compatible with a content repository service provider interface (SPI);

wherein the VCR integrates a plurality of content repositories such that they appear and behave as a single content repository.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) The software architecture of claim ~~[[19]]~~ 20 wherein:
the SPI provides a subset of the services available in the API.

21. (Currently Amended) The software architecture of claim ~~[[19]]~~ 20 wherein the first group of services comprises:

first functions ~~to enable for~~ authorizing access to content repositories; and
second functions ~~to enable for~~ incorporating content repositories into a hierarchical namespace; and
third functions ~~to enable for~~ extending a VCR content model to represent information in content repositories.

22. (Original) The software architecture of claim 21 wherein:
authorizing access to content repositories includes providing authentication information to repositories and receiving authentication results from content repositories.

23. (Original) The software architecture of claim 21 wherein:
authorizing access to content repositories utilizes Java Authentication and Authorization Service.

24. (Original) The software architecture of claim 21 wherein:
incorporating content repositories into a hierarchical namespace includes representing content repositories as nodes under a single VCR root node.

25. (Original) The application program interface of claim 21 wherein:
extending a VCR content model to represent information in content repositories includes sharing a common representation of content between the API and the SPI.

26-33. (Withdrawn)

34. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a virtual content repository (VCR) representing a plurality of ~~at least one~~ content repositories repository such that they appear and behave as a single content repository, comprising:

providing an application program interface (API), wherein the API includes: [[;]]
a first group of services for integrating the plurality of content repositories into the VCR,
a second group of services for manipulating information VCRs,
a third group of services for searching VCRs, and
a forth group of services for configuring VCRs,
wherein the application program interface is compatible with a content repository service provider interface; and

providing a service provider interface (SPI) to be implemented by the plurality of ~~at least one~~ content repositories repository; and

wherein the API and the SPI are compatible and share a common content model and a common namespace.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the content model includes:
a set of hierarchically related objects.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34 wherein
the namespace makes addressable the content in the plurality of ~~at least one~~ content repositories repository.

37. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the API includes:
services for performing operations on the namespace and the content model.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34 wherein the SPI includes:
services for merging contents of the plurality of ~~at least one~~ content repositories repository into the namespace and the content model.

39. (Canceled).

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[39]]~~ 34 wherein:
the content repository service provider interface provides a subset of the services available in the application program interface.
41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[39]]~~ 34 wherein the first group of services comprises:
first functions ~~that enable~~ for authorizing access to content repositories; and
second functions ~~that enable~~ for incorporating content repositories into a hierarchical namespace; and
third functions ~~that enable~~ for extending a VCR content model to represent information in content repositories.
42. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein:
authorizing access to content repositories includes providing authentication information to repositories and receiving authentication results from content repositories.
43. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein:
authorizing access to content repositories utilizes Java Authentication and Authorization Service.
44. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein:
incorporating content repositories into a hierarchical namespace includes representing content repositories as nodes under a single VCR root node.
45. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein:
extending a VCR content model to represent information in content repositories includes sharing a common representation of content between the application program interface and the service provider interface.
- 46-53. (Withdrawn)
54. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a processor cause a system to:

provide an application program interface (API), wherein the API includes:

a first group of services for integrating content repositories into virtual content repositories (VCR) such that they appear and behave as a single content repository,

a second group of services for manipulating information VCRs,

a third group of services for searching VCRs, and

a forth group of services for configuring VCRs,

wherein the application program interface is compatible with a content repository service provider interface;

provide a service provider interface (SPI) to be implemented by the a plurality of at least one content repositories repository; and

wherein the API and the SPI are compatible and share a common content model and a common namespace.

55. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 54 wherein the content model includes:

a set of hierarchically related objects.

56. (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 54 wherein:

the namespace makes addressable the content in the plurality of at least one content repositories repository.

57. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 54 wherein the API includes:

services for performing operations on the namespace and the content model.

58. (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 54 wherein the SPI includes:

services for merging contents of the plurality of at least one content repositories repository into the namespace and the content model.

59. (Canceled).

60. (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim ~~[[59]]~~ 54 wherein:

the content repository service provider interface provides a subset of the services available in the application program interface.

61. (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim ~~[[59]]~~ 54 wherein the first group of services comprises:

first functions ~~that enable~~ for authorizing access to content repositories; and
second functions ~~that enable~~ for incorporating content repositories into a hierarchical namespace; and
third functions ~~that enable~~ for extending a VCR content model to represent information in content repositories.

62. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 61 wherein:
authorizing access to content repositories includes providing authentication information to repositories and receiving authentication results from content repositories.

63. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 61 wherein:
authorizing access to content repositories utilizes Java Authentication and Authorization Service.

64. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 61 wherein:
incorporating content repositories into a hierarchical namespace includes representing content repositories as nodes under a single VCR root node.

65. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 61 wherein:
extending a VCR content model to represent information in content repositories includes sharing a common representation of content between the application program interface and the service provider interface.

66-73. (Withdrawn)

74. (Canceled).